

JORDAN TIMES

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We didn't need this!

The assassination of Kamal Junblatt is a tragedy for his friends and foes alike. It is an unparalleled jab in the ribs of the slumbering demon of bloodlust whose awakening in Lebanon could at one stroke erase all the painstaking efforts and the sacrifice of so many over such a long period of time to bring the civil war to a halt.

Even if the authorities in Lebanon manage to forestall an immediate backlash from the country's one third of a million Druze, the majority of whom consider Kamal Junblatt their spiritual leader, a violent reaction is unavoidable: the only question is what form will it take?

Either a resumption of the civil war or a spate of political assassinations is certain unless the perpetrators of the crime are arrested and tried, and unless thorough investigations into the killing reveal conclusively the non-involvement of Mr. Junblatt's traditional enemies.

Mr. Junblatt is also the unchallenged leader of Lebanon's leftist forces. In fact, Mr. Junblatt used his power base as a traditional confessional leader to provide a protective umbrella for the country's leftist parties, allowing them to survive the initial phases of their emergence to light in a highly hostile environment and made it possible for them to acquire the status of legal parties. A leftist reaction, though less severe than that of the Druze, is also to be expected.

Last but not least, the Palestinians in Lebanon have come to look on Mr. Junblatt as a sort of protector and as one Lebanese politician they could trust. His assassination at this time, which is so crucial for the Palestinians, is bound to have a bearing on them. It will occasion fears on their part that the assassination will be followed up by an assault on them. If this happens, the Palestinians will necessarily be distracted from the objective of hammering out a joint position on a settlement of the Middle East problem. The so-called "moderates" among them will no longer be able to afford a showdown with the "hardliners" in the interest of working out a formula for such a settlement. The "moderates" may feel obliged to yield to the "hardliners" for the sake of unity and in the interest of self-preservation, which cannot but dominate all other considerations. The fact that Junblatt's assassination coincides with the PNC meeting in Cairo might not be an accident.

One fact stands out in all this: whoever was responsible for the assassination was acting as an agent provocateur. The consequences of the assassination are entirely calculable, so whoever is responsible is either mad or acting against the interests of Lebanon as a whole and against the interests of the Arab World at large.

The Arabs were able to launch their drive for peace in the Middle East only after they had brought the situation in Lebanon reasonably under control. The perpetrators of this crime are no doubt aware that a new flare-up in Lebanon is bound to distract the Arab states from the peace drive they have initiated.

At the risk of repeating a hackneyed phrase, the only party to benefit from this incident - barring a personal act of vengeance - is Israel. That country has so far made it easier to keep the pot boiling in south Lebanon. Perhaps certain circles in Israel feel that the peace drive is making the situation really uncomfortable for them. Junblatt's assassination is the perfect device to ease up that pressure if it sets Lebanon on fire again. It would not be the first time that Israelis carried out assassinations in Lebanon nor the first time that they intervened in Lebanon to prevent the open wounds caused by the civil war from healing.



'That man is here'

Marcos' wife in Libya tries to salvage talks with Muslim national liberation movement

MANILA, March 16 (AFP). — The fragile ceasefire in the Philippine south now hangs by a thread pending word from Tripoli as to whether the Muslim rebellion is headed for a settlement or renewed and possibly uglier war.

Now in Tripoli is Madame Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, on a mission to salvage the Libya-mediated negotiations which broke up early this month after a promising initial phase.

Whether Mrs. Marcos can turn the tide in her talks with Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, both godfather and financier of the Muslim revolt, is anybody's guess.

But if she can't, the alternative, in the words of Mr. Marcos himself, would be "too awful to consider", meaning a bigger bloodbath in Mindanao pitting Christians against Muslims. A four-year-old pocket war has already claimed 20,000 lives there.

And yet, just over two months ago it seemed that peace was at hand when the first Tripoli talks produced an agreement that would set up a Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao.

What happened? Why the current rash of charges and counter-charges when only recently the trumpets optimistically heralded the arrival of Colonel Qaddafi here this April to sign the final peace accord?

It appears that the agreement signed by the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) with the Libyan strongman's mediation, was absurdly and purposefully vague.

And possibly the vaguest provision was that setting up an autonomous Muslim region to cover 13 Philippine provinces.

For Mr. Marcos, an autonomous Muslim region would have to be in step with the Philippine constitution which in the first place contains no provision for regional autonomy. What the charter does contain is a clause pledging the central government to encourage the setting up of local self-government in the provinces.

But this kind of local self-government was never meant, in the thinking of the men behind the constitution, to embrace autonomy, not the kind of autonomy that the MNLF envisaged anyway.

And both under Philippine martial law and constitution, it would have been unthinkable for the government to allow about five million Muslims to elude Manila's direct control.

And yet on the Muslim side, the limited autonomy intended by the Philippine government was also unacceptable as Mindanao was their ancestral home long before the Christians came over from the centre and north to gobble up their choice lands.

In fact, what principally caused the Muslim revolt was this land deprivation as two cultures and civilisations clashed. The Christians claimed land and produced titles to back their claim. The Muslims, unable to produce titles, were pushed back into the hinterlands.

It is also freely admitted now that the central government in Manila abetted this Christian penetration and treated the Muslims as second-class citizens for generations.

That the martial law regime of Mr. Marcos is the first to seriously cope with and search for lasting solutions to the Muslim problem is itself admitted by the Islamic conference, of which Libya is an

Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawar

The key to understanding

Everybody had been waiting to find out what kind of position U.S. President Carter would take on the Arab-Israeli conflict, but he seems to have confounded everybody with his unpredictable statements. He says and does things that please both the Arabs and the Israelis. I decided to look into the matter a bit deeper, and I sent out a special team of covert operation men recently to find out the secret of Mr. Carter's actions. They've just given me their report, and I pass it along to my readers with the hope that it will help clear up some of the confusion that seems to reign in Middle East diplomacy these days. The following is the transcript of a tape recording made just before Mr. Rabin visited the U.S. last week. It was taped at a top-secret briefing session for Mr. Carter.

Professor Zip-Zap-Boom (top CIA Middle East analyst who works in the White House under the guise of a telephone operator): Mister President, we have all the top Middle East leaders coming to Washington this spring for highly important talks. I think we'd better go over this briefing book so you know what to expect.

Carter: OK, Zip-Zap, I've gone over these notes but I'm very confused. Could we start from the beginning and go real slow?

Professor Zip-Zap: Mr. President, I've been in this business for many years, and I believe I have finally figured out how things really work in the Middle East. So let's put down the briefing book for a minute and I'll try to explain to you what I think is the key to understanding what is going on over there. It's not in the briefing book because people would not think we're crazy if we wrote it down. But it's as follows: Nothing that happens in the Middle East can be analysed fully without taking into account the Shawarma Factor. The things that those people do and say just do not make sense if they are analysed according to normal rational thought processes and intellectual criteria. There's a key to the puzzle, and that key is the Shawarma Factor.

Carter: What's a Shawarma? Is that one of those new Israeli missiles?

Professor Zip-Zap: Oh, no, sir, it's far more important than that. A Shawarma is a sandwich the Arabs and the Israelis eat at least three times a week, but it's also a state of mind. When you eat a Shawarma sandwich, the world becomes a much more serene place. You forget what your problems are, except perhaps for greasy fingers, and the dilemmas of this world fade into the background until you finish eating the sandwich.

Now, what happens is that the Shawarma Factor is something we have devised to explain the apparent contradictions in the Middle East. If you apply the criteria of the Shawarma Factor, the things that didn't make sense suddenly start to make plenty of sense.

Carter: Can I please have an example, professor? And, if possible, I'll have mine without too much hot sauce but lots of onions.

Professor Zip-Zap: Sorry, Mr. President, we can't make you a Shawarma sandwich right here, but we'll ask President Sadat's advance men to bring a few with them. In any case, you can understand what I mean if you consider events in the Middle East. Look at the Israelis. They've been talking about peace for thirty years and they come over here every year asking for more weapons. They keep saying they want to negotiate with the Arabs, but they refuse to talk to the key people, the Arabs

say they must talk to the Palestinians. Now this doesn't make sense. But it's the result of the Shawarma Factor. It's the ability to close your eyes to the realities of this world. Like they close their eyes when they bite into one of those Shawarma sandwiches.

And look at the Arabs. They've been talking about Arab unity for hundreds of years but they keep fighting each other. Now they've gone and arranged another fight in the Western Sahara. If anybody else acted like this we'd say they were nuts. But when the Arab and the Israelis do it, we accept it as normal. The only way it makes sense is if you take it to account the fact that both these people are according to the Shawarma Factor and the invisible laws of the Shawarma Principle.

Carter: What's the Shawarma Principle?

Professor Zip-Zap: Well, it's a bit complex but basically the Shawarma Principle is the philosophical framework within which the Shawarma Factor goes to work.

Carter: You mean it's sort of like the bread you use to make a sandwich?

Professor Zip-Zap: That's right, Mr. President, that's very good!

Carter: So what does all this really mean for my talks with the Middle East leaders this spring?

Professor Zip-Zap: Well, it simply means you should keep the Shawarma Factor in the back of your mind whenever they say anything that sounds funny. For example, all the Arab talk about the justice of the Palestinian cause but the Palestinians are killing each other every week and causing trouble all over the place. It doesn't make sense to talk like the Arabs and Israelis talk, but it makes sense if them because they are unconsciously applying the Shawarma Principle.

Carter: Wait a minute, professor. I've got great ideas. If they act like this, but I act normally, we'd never get anywhere. How about I start learning the Shawarma Principle also?

Professor Zip-Zap: I'm not sure you'll be able to stomach it, sir.

Carter: Sure I will. Look, when Premie Rabin gets here next week I'm going to try to eat on him. I'm gonna say that the Israeli will have to pull out of all the occupied Arab territories but they can still maintain defense capabilities beyond their borders. We'll really confuse them by saying their defensible borders won't have to necessarily coincide with their legal borders. How's that for the Shawarma Principle at work?

Professor Zip-Zap: That's fantastic, sir, better than anything they could come up with. doesn't make any sense whatsoever, but they love it. The Jewish lobby and the Arab ambassadors will call us up for clarifications so far poor Cyrus will go crazy trying to explain what you mean.

Carter: And we won't tell Cyrus about ahead of time to see how quickly he can adapt to Shawarma Diplomacy.

Professor Zip-Zap: That's really cruel, sir. Carter: I know, Zip-Zap, but this is a tough world. Cyrus won't go far if he isn't thoughted up, and he certainly won't get anywhere in the Middle East unless he quickly masters the complexities of Shawarma Diplomacy. After all, if he's going to have to explain nonsensical things that I'm going to say, it's sooner he learns the better. I can't wait start. When does Rabin get here? Those Middle Easterners better watch out from now on. I've learned their language.

important member.

But it so happens that the wounds of Mindanao cannot be bandaged overnight. These wounds were opened after Spain came over to colonise the Philippines in the 16th century. The Spaniards Christianised the population but never managed in four centuries to subjugate the Muslims in the south.

It will take months of painful and arduous negotiations before the MNLF and the Philippine government can really effect a negotiation breakthrough in Tripoli and elsewhere.

What Mrs. Marcos can achieve in Tripoli is simply to dampen the fires of mistrust and misunderstanding and no more. If she can convince Colonel Qaddafi to resume the negotiations and soon, she will have accomplished her mission.

misunderstanding and no more.

Meanwhile, the plebiscite scheduled March 17 as a first Philippine government step to implement the Tripoli agreement for an autonomous Muslim region has been postponed until April 21.

The plebiscite would have 13 provinces, encompassing two Philippine regions, decide whether to merge or not. A merger would mean only one autonomous Muslim region, a non-merger two.

But a lot of confusion has broken out over the scheduled plebiscite. The MNLF opposes the plebiscite, claims the poll agreement never provided for a plebiscite and wants Marcos to establish the autonomous Muslim region by a presidential decree.

Another plebiscite question would ask three other provinces, outside of the 13, namely Palawan, South Cotabato and Zamboanga, whether they want to join the Muslim autonomous region. Populations in the three provinces, too, are predominantly Christian.

Right now, where the Philippine Muslim problem is concerned, all roads lead to a poll.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

| Channel 3 & 6: | 9:20 Quiz programme |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8:00 Quran | 10:00 Arabic film |
| Channel 6: | |
| 9:05 Children's programme | |
| 6:30 English by television | |
| 7:00 Young Dr. Kildare | 7:30 News in Hebrew |
| 8:00 News in Arabic | 7:45 Varieties |
| Channel 3: | 8:30 A Swede in Paris |
| 7:30 Science and life | 9:10 The quest |
| 8:30 Arabic series | 10:00 News in English |

RADIO JORDAN

| (On 856 KHZ) | 16:30 Easy listening |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7:00 Morning melodies | 17:00 Good vibrations (re-peat) |
| 7:30 News | 17:30 Pop session |
| 7:40 News report | 18:00 News summary |
| 8:00 Sign off | 18:05 Pop session |
| 12:00 Pop session | 18:15 Catch the words (re-peat) |
| 13:00 News summary | 18:30 My kind of music (re-peat) |
| 13:05 Pop session | 19:00 News |
| 14:00 News | 19:10 News reports |
| 14:10 Radio magazine | 19:30 Sign off |
| 14:30 Arabs in history | |
| 15:00 Concert hour | |
| 16:00 Old favourites | |

EMERGENCIES

| Doctors: | Amin (39735) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Amman: | Jabal Jauheh (77444) |
| Kamel Ya'coub Atiyeh (72411) | |
| Mo'een Mahmoud Babieh | |
| Irbid: | Irbid: Khazar |
| Omar Qasrawi (3515) | |
| Alkaram Momani | |
| Zarqa: | Zarqa: Hayat Saleh |
| Ghazi Fayyad | |
| Pharmacies: | Taxis: Al Hussein Youth City (63273) |
| Amman: | Rainbow (37249) |
| Fawzi (25024) | Ahl (21127) |
| Omar (42737) | Talal (44584) |

AMMAN AIRPORT

| Arrivals: | Departures: |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 7:55 Cairo (EA) | 6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa) |
| 8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain | 8:00 Beirut |
| 8:40 Dhahran, Kuwait | 8:45 Beirut (MEA) |
| 8:50 Baghdad | 8:45 Cairo (EA) |
| 10:30 Beirut | 10:00 Athens, Madrid |
| 11:25 Rawalpindi (BA) | 10:30 Cairo |
| 16:00 Kuwait (KAC) | 12:25 London (BA) |
| 16:20 Aqaba | 12:30 Rome, Paris |
| 17:00 Cairo | 14:30 Aqaba |
| 17:10 London | 16:45 Kuwait (KAC) |
| 17:40 Copenhagen, Vienna | 21:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI) |
| 18:55 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM) | |
| 19:40 Beirut (MEA) | |
| 20:20 Riyadh (SDI) | |

BBC RADIO

| GMT | 13:30 Paperbacks |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 05:00 News; 24 hours | 13:45 Radio Theatre |
| 05:30 Sarah Ward | 14:30 Matthew on Music |
| 05:45 The World Today | 15:00 Radio Newsreel |
| 06:00 News; Press Review | 15:15 Outlook |
| 06:30 A City and its Music | 16:00 News; Commentary |
| 07:00 News; 24 hours | 16:15 Racing |
| 07:30 Sarah Ward | 16:30 The King's Singers |
| 07:45 A Musician Remembers | 16:45 The World Today |
| 08:00 News | 17:00 News |
| 08:15 International Soccer | 17:40 People and Politics |
| Special | 17:45 Sports Round-up |
| 08:30 Farming World | 18:00 News; Radio Newsreel |
| 09:00 News; UK Press Review | 18:30 Take it or Leave it |
| 09:15 The World Today | 19:00 News; Outlook |
| 09:30 Financial News | 19:45 Best in Black |
| 09:45 Music Now | 20:00 World News; 24 hours |
| 10:15 Wales 77 | 20:30 A Jolly Good Show |
| 10:30 Just a minute | 21:15 People and Politics |
| 11:00 News | 21:30 The King's Singers |
| 11:15 The Energy of God | 21:45 Paperbacks |
| Commonwealth Show-case | 22:00 News; The World Today |
| 12:00 Radio Newsreel | 22:25 Financial News |
| 12:15 Top Twenty | 22:35 The Melody Makers |
| 12:45 Sports Round-up | 22:45 Sports Round-up |
| 13:00 News; 24 hours | 23:00 News; Commentary |

VOICE OF AMERICA

| GMT | 18:00 Special English. News Feature: Science in the News; News Summary |
|---|--|
| 03:00 to 03:30, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT: News; 18:30 Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary. 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest. | 19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis. News Summary |
| 06:30 | 19:30 VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural Letters. |
| 17:00 | 20:00 Special English. News, Music USA (Jazz). |
| 17:30 | 20:15 VOA World Report. News ... newsmakers' voices ... correspondents' reports ... background features ... media comments, news analyses. |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Ambulance (government) | Tel. 70111 |
| Civil defence rescue | 24391-4 |
| Fire headquarters | 22090 |
| First aid, fire, police | 19 |
| Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) | 36381-2 |
| Municipal water service (emergency) | 57111-3 |
| Police headquarters | 30141 |
| Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help | 21111, 57777 |

Cultural Centres

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| American Centre (USIS) | Tel. 6128 |
| British Council | 36147-6 |
| French Cultural Centre | 57000 |
| Goethe Institute | 41995 |
| Soviet Cultural Centre | 44206 |
| Amman Municipal Library | 36111 |

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

One of the Jordanian dailies commented in its Wednesday editorial on the invitation made by British Foreign Minister, Dr. David Owen to European countries, during the debate which took place on the Middle East in the House of Commons to seize the available opportunity to participate in solving the Middle East crisis.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "Even Britain seeks the facts" says that the only new factor in Dr. Owen's declaration on the Middle East crisis consisted in his expressing Britain's wish to get better acquainted with the facts in the area. It is surprising to note, the paper added, that even Britain which participated in the creation of the Palestinian situation and has throughout its history been a party to the conflict, now expresses the wish to become better acquainted with the crisis. It's as if it ignores the origins and causes and the Israeli practices and violations that are presently taking place in the Arabs' occupied territories. It seems, the paper added, that the British Foreign Minister has found it easier to just issue a declaration similar to those made by other foreign officials, in the hope that it would suffice to calm and abate the Arabs. He forgot that the

Arabs have never forgotten the British role in the Palestinian situation during its various stages and that tranquilliser speeches by themselves no longer have any effect on the Arabs what so ever. If Britain is really serious and intent on wiping away some of its past misdeeds, it should initiate a positive move from the European community to pressure Israel to curb and check its expansionist policy. The paper does add that the Britain of today is not that of the past. However, its weaker international status does not exonerate it from working in such a direction, not to mention the Arab money which has been a major boost to its economy at various times, the paper concluded.

AL RA' commenting on Teachers' Day says that the intention behind the country's celebrating Teacher's Day does not reside in just delivering speeches for their own sake, but to try to place education and culture within the exact framework of the development. Teachers' Day is a tribute to the silent workers and an expression of hope that education will one day reach the required standards, that one day our books and schools will become ideological factories of thinking and morals for the new generation.

I.Q. tests will pick talented Jordanians

Identification of potential intelligence among Jordanian individuals by intelligence tests will make possible to use their abilities in various fields essential for the implementation of vital development projects. Dr. Kilani, Director of the Department of Psychology and Measurements at the University of Jordan, is about just such an experiment now being carried at his department, whereby the Stanford-Binet intelligence scale is being adapted to Jordanian culture.

By Lina Gress
Special to the Jordan Times

Stanford-Binet intelligence is one of the most widely used in the West for determining mental capacity between the ages of two and 16. It is named after the psychologist Binet, who drew it up in 1905, and is used in Jordan in the United States, where the test underwent a number of revisions in 1916, 1937 and 1960, revision of norms in 1960 came the Word-Scale.

Stanford-Binet tests are used in what is called an intelligence test. A child's intelligence is measured by the age level he attains.

For example, Dr. Kilani explained, a child of seven is considered to be average if he does the things children of a normally do, below average if he does them earlier or retarded if his test performance corresponds to performance of children younger than himself. His mental age is then considered to be higher than his chronological age. If his test performance exceeds that of children his own age, his mental age is then considered greater than his chronological age and referred to as bright or gifted. Thus, if the child can do the test appropriate for a child of 12, his mental age is considered to be 12.

I.Q., or Intelligence Quotient, which came to be known world through the Stanford test, is the ratio of a child's mental age to his chronological age, and measured his relative position in an age group as average, above average, or below average.

JORDANIAN CULTURE

STANFORD-BINET

King about the translation of the Stanford-Binet intelligence test to Jordanian culture. Dr. Kilani said the transfer of the test to Jordanian culture is a matter of simple logic. Intelligence does not exist in a vacuum. It is affected by the cultural and natural environment, in which the individual lives. Thus revision of the test is required.

There are so far no tests to measure intelligence from culture or that are the cultural differences between one and the other," Dr. Kilani said.

That assumption, the test and measurement department has drawn up a Jordanian version of the test. It

had to deal with certain items on the original test, which depended too much on the knowledge and use of the English language, as well as on meanings attached to certain words. These items were replaced by others of a similar nature and difficulty, which still test the same mental functions.

The reformulation or replacement of items had to be done within the context of Jordanian culture, Dr. Kilani stressed.

As to the non-verbal side of the test, which may require the child to interpret a picture by analysing and perceiving the relations among its different parts, Dr. Kilani said:

"Whenever the visual representation of such a picture is too dependent on the concepts of a foreign culture the Jordanian child may lack the necessary experience for the correct perception of the picture. Thus, where a picture on the original Stanford-Binet test constitutes an item, this picture needs to be replaced by another with visual concepts familiar to the Jordanian child."

For example: The original version had a picture of a birthday party, but the concepts of this party were not related to the experience of all Jordanian children, so in the Arabic version it was replaced by a feast day, a theme considered to be familiar to the Jordanian child.

Dr. Kilani further elaborated that such translation and readaptation of content is not achieved without some procedural difficulty. Problems arise concerning the comparison of norms and the equivalence of scores in the validated original version and the new Arabic version, which still has to be standardised and validated against the Jordanian population. The Jordanian version was tested in 1976 on 350 Jordanian students between the ages of 2 and 18. The performance of these students provided the data for measuring the level of difficulty and the discriminative power of each item. Some of the items have therefore been made more difficult or more easy. Others have been left intact and others discarded.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — The Commander of the U.S. forces in the Middle East, Admiral William Crowe, Wednesday afternoon arrived here on a short visit during which he will meet the Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Gen. Zeid Ibn Shaker.

* RIYADH. — Minister of the Interior, Suleiman Arar, presently on a visit to Saudi Arabia, Wednesday conferred with his Saudi opposite number, Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz.

* AMMAN. — Two experts from the British Overseas Agricultural Anti-Pest Centre will arrive here March 24 to participate in joint research work underway between British and Jordanian experts aimed at combating agricultural pests.

* AMMAN. — Al Dustour newspaper has reported that a Canadian parliamentary delegation will arrive in Amman on March 19.

KING HUSSEIN VISITS CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday afternoon paid a visit to Haya Cultural Centre where he was briefed by the director on the activities of the children and on future projects aimed at bringing up a new educated generation.

His Majesty then attended a rehearsal for the children, who later answered the King's questions about their activities at the centre.

His Majesty also visited the Royal Centre of National Arts, where he looked over the programmes of the centre and inspected its different sections. Both centres were previously under the personal supervision of the late Queen Ayla.

Ajlouni back from labour meet

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni Wednesday returned home after leading Jordan's delegation to the Arab Labour Organisation meeting which took place in Alexandria over the past 10 days.

Mr. Ajlouni said that the ministers reviewed a number of subjects aimed at developing vocational training in Arab countries, in addition to measures that should be taken for the safety of workers.

A unified Arab stand was also agreed upon concerning the subjects to be discussed at the International Labour Conference to take place in Geneva next June, the minister added.

Jordan's delegation to the Alexandria conference also included the under secretary at the Ministry of Labour and the director of Amman Chamber of Commerce.

IMPORTANCE OF ADAPTATION

The adaptation and standardisation of the Stanford-Binet intelligence test to Jordanian culture will help promote research in the fields of education and psychology by shedding light on the nature and development of intelligence and its role in personality formation.

In the academic field, it will help identify the student's intelligence level, which will facilitate educational and vocational counselling, and consequently help achieve better adjustment. It should not, however, categorise, or stigmatise students.

In the clinical and psychiatric fields, it will be an important device for uncovering the patient's mental functioning. Presently the Egyptian version of the test is applied in clinics, but the results cannot be very reliable because of social and cultural differences between the two countries.

In conclusion, Dr. Kilani said that a standardised mental test is constructed in accordance with definite principles. It is quite different from the intelligence puzzles found in popular magazines and newspapers, or from amusing social games. The results of performance on a standardised test are often associated with the level of success attained in life in general, Dr. Kilani said.

Jordan participates in Berlin tourist meet

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan participated in the 11th Berlin International Tourism Congress, which was held in West Berlin between March 5-13.

Jordan's representative at the conference, Mr. Mohammad Kurdi, tours promotion manager at Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, announced on his return to Amman Wednesday that the conference debated several topics related to the international travel and hotel industries, new tourist centres and camping.

Afro-Arab decisions to be discussed

CAIRO (JNA). — The board of the Arab League will open its ordinary session at the foreign ministers level on March 26.

The board will discuss the implementation of resolutions passed by the Afro-Arab summit. It will also elect 12 ministers to represent the Arab League on the 24-member permanent committee, which will be entrusted with implementation of the plans and projects decided by the summit.



WRITERS SOCIETY MEETS

President of the Jordanian Writers Society Rocks Auzaizi delivers the opening speech Tuesday at the society's seminar on the writer in society. Information Secretary Salem Nabhas sits to his right. Wednesday's session dwelt on how the radio and television networks can publicise the works of the writer. Two papers on this subject were presented and discussed before recommendations were drawn up. The seminar will end on Saturday. (JNA photo).

Plan submitted for Arab university

AMMAN (JNA). — A special committee has submitted to the Union of Arab Universities plans for an Arab university and specialised research centres for the Arab World.

A member of this special committee, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Samrah, University of Jordan's Vice President for Academic Affairs, said that the union will look into postgraduate studies at Arab universities, and in particular the number of students, fields of study and the number of graduates expected within the coming five years.

The project also calls for a study on the number of working professors at Arab universities and their fields of specialisation. This will help to found an Arab establishment

that could fill in shortages and raise the academic standard of courses.

Dr. Samrah added that scholarships will be provided for the establishment of research centres to study arid areas, animal and marine wealth, development of food resources, metal ores, petrol and petrochemicals.

This scientific establishment should be backed by the Arab governments with not less than \$500 million, he stated.

This project will be discussed during the meetings of the board of the Union of Arab Universities to be held in Amman in April.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian filis for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency: | | |
| U.K. sterling | 573.0 | 573.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 333.0 | 334.0 |
| German mark | 139.1 | 139.5 |
| French franc | 66.8 | 67.1 |
| Swiss franc | 130.2 | 130.6 |
| Italian lira (for every 100) | 37.5 | 37.7 |
| Saudi riyal | 94.0 | 94.5 |
| Lebanese pound | 110.0 | 111.0 |
| Syrian pound | 82.1 | 82.4 |
| Iraqi dinar | 950.0 | 957.0 |
| Kuwaiti dinar | 1,148.0 | 1,152.0 |
| Egyptian pound | 480.0 | 470.0 |
| Libyan dinar | 800.0 | 815.0 |
| UAE dirham | 85.0 | 85.5 |

Princess Basma visits Amman social centres

AMMAN (JNA). — Her Highness Princess Basma Wednesday morning visited a number of social centres and nurseries here to inspect the services they provide for orphans and children of fallen soldiers.

The tour included the Day Nursery, the Al Hussein Social Institute, the Al Nahda Girls Centre and the Al Nur Institute for the Blind, all in Amman. The Day Nursery was established last year to look after children of working women and to train the necessary qualified personnel for private nurseries. It includes five halls, a playground and presently takes care of 30 children under the age of four.

The Al Hussein Social Institute is divided into three parts: A nursery for 40 children; Mabarrat Princess Ayla, which caters for 30 children aged 4-6; and Mabarrat Princess Basma, where 100 young women learn to sew.

The Al Nahda Girls Centre cares for orphans and children of needy people. It takes 98 people, while the Al Nur Institute for the Blind, established in 1969, takes care of 74 blind persons.

Princess Basma was accompanied on her visit by the director of the Social Affairs Department and a number of officials.

Advice for Jordanians going to Egypt:

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordanians travelling to Egypt have been asked by the Foreign Ministry to have with them a return air ticket. Anybody who goes to Egypt to get married or to complete a marriage deal should get a certificate from the Amman sharia court, attested by the Foreign Ministry, which includes personal details and a clear statement that there is no objection to the marriage.

Anyone travelling in his own car should be in possession of an international passage book issued by the Royal Automobile Club. The book should be valid for his whole stay in Egypt, the Foreign Ministry stated.

JORDAN, SYRIAN INDUSTRIAL MEET CONTINUES

AMMAN (JNA). — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Industrial Coordination Wednesday resumed its meetings here to complete industrial integration steps between the two countries.

The committee agreed to coordinate the following industries: Cement, red tiles, porcelain, electric lamps, canned fruits and vegetables, and lemon acid.

The committee will discuss the remaining items on the agenda Thursday.

Meanwhile, Under-Secretary at the Syrian Ministry of Industry Nazeeh Raslan and members of the Syrian delegation paid a visit to a number of industrial firms in Amman to study the possibility of Syria importing goods from them.

Tourist meet takes place

AMMAN (JNA). — A discussion took place at the Ministry of Tourism on the financial and administrative reports of the Tourists' Friends Society Tuesday.

It was decided during the meeting to increase the members of the society and its activities, such as encouraging tourist agencies, hotels, social and cultural clubs.

Following discussion of the reports, the new administrative board was named with Subhi Al Qutob as President, Mrs. Nimrah Tannous as Vice President, Mr. Nashat Kawalet as Secretary, Mr. Saleem Barakat as Treasurer, and Father Qarmash, Mr. Nabilah Trshaidat, Dr. Suleiman Rihani, Mr. Basil Bustami, Mrs. Faizeh Jabaji, Mr. Mahmoud A'abidi and Dr. Sami Khasawneh as members.

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The U.N. Development Programme evaluates the needs of the Arab world

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has allocated \$44.3 million for projects in the Arab world, Mediterranean and the Middle East (EMME) region for the period 1977-1981.

This region encompasses 18 Arab countries and 15 non-Arab countries.

For Arab countries, the overall objectives of the regional programme are: promoting collective self-reliance within the region, improving the quality of life for the poorest segments of the region's population, and improving the flow of development financing among countries.

Arab country needs

Linked to its overall objectives, the UNDP regional programme identifies several Arab country development problems, all of which have been highlighted by various U.N. international action plans. Overcoming these constraints is com-

pllicated by the fact that the Arab world, now inhabited by some 140 million people, nearly half of them under the age of 15, has one of the fastest growing populations on earth. This requires cooperative efforts to meet crucial regional needs to:

-- Train and fully employ the Arab labour force, male and female.

-- Alleviate high, costly external food dependence.

-- Stimulate widespread increase in productivity and restore rural/urban balance.

-- Establish a truly subregional or regional agro-industrial and industrial base.

Priorities for Arab countries

Within the EMME regional programme, there are areas of activity which will be given priority in the Arab region, with particular attention to the development of human skills and the role of Arab women in the region's development.

1. Food production, storage and marketing.

With food accounting for some 25 per cent of all imports, the Arab region is the highest per capita food importer in the developing world. Besides creating dependency, this situation diverts financial resources which could be used for productive local investment.

The regional programme will continue its past support for increased production of field food crops in the region, and may also undertake livestock development projects and comprehensive fisheries surveys.

Pre- and post-harvest food losses, currently estimated at about 30 per cent of production, will also receive attention, with emphasis placed on the preservation of the main crops of the region -- cereals and legumes.

Efforts may also be made to ensure that small farmers will

have access to fertilizers and appropriate technologies, based on regional experience, which could increase their productivity.

2. Development financing, trans-Arab enterprises and external transnational enterprises.

During the past two years, a substantial increase and expansion of national and regional Arab development funds has taken place. The regional programme will seek to improve the appraisal capacities of these funds, and to extend their reach by assisting in the identification of new programmes and projects with investment potential.

Through the regional programme, UNDP will also support Arab Countries' joint enterprises linking use of the region's capital, technological capabilities, production facilities, labour, management skills and markets. It may do this by bringing interested parties

together, assisting with feasibility studies for proposed schemes, or mobilizing any required external assistance. Continued co-operation with the Council for Arab Economic Unity and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development is envisioned in this regard.

The development of policies to ensure that external investment, capital goods, materials and skills coming into the Arab region are appropriate to basic needs and plans will be another area of concern. The regional programme may pursue such actions as the development of model laws, contracts and agreements for dealing with transnational corporations.

3. Basic needs.

Increasing productivity in the Arab region depends, to a large extent, upon meeting basic needs for adequate housing, water supplies, and sanitation and medical facilities. In addition, farmers and entrepreneurs need access to technologies appropriate to the region's labour/capital/land mix.

Most "low-cost" housing constructed in recent years is still not within reach of the poor. Studies indicate that from 50 to 70 per cent of the people in Arab countries cannot afford even the cheapest housing units presently available.

In co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), the regional programme may promote co-operation for the development of housing designs, based on the locally available materials and labour, which are within local means. It may also support production of partially prefabricated housing components in the region.

The general lack of access to safe water supplies among the rural poor is one of the leading causes of sickness and death in the Arab countries. In general, however, 70 to 80 per cent of public health expenditures go for curative services, and less than one quarter

of expenditures on water and sanitation benefits rural areas.

UNDP regional support in this area will focus on the training of civil and sanitary engineers, health inspectors and educators, and workers needed to plan, install, operate and maintain water and sanitation systems. It will also encourage the production of improved water and sanitation equipment within the region.

Effective techniques and small-scale technologies are frequently devised at the local level. These could be of widespread benefit, but few channels for making them known and available now exist. The regional programme could establish an information bank on small and intermediate technologies, both those developed within the region and in other developing countries, and linked to existing appropriate technology networks.

The regional programme is an important means through which UNDP promotes Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TC) in the region. This form of development co-operation, which is to be the subject of a world conference in March 1978, is considered a key method which developing countries can use to build collective self-reliance.

Foreign investors buy up big chunks of British industry

With the pound weak against other currencies and British share prices lower than the asset values of the companies they represent, foreign companies are buying up British industry at an unprecedented rate.

LONDON (F.T.) — The Foreign invasion of Britain continues -- first only in the High Street, now also in the Stock Market. The fall in the value of the pound has made British companies cheap for foreign entrepreneurs. More than £200 million has been spent in the past seven months in buying some of the gems of an economy which went sour but is now showing signs of sweetening up again.

Even apart from the currency consideration, British firms are cheap when viewed against the most foreign companies in the same field. Although the stock market has recovered from the basement levels of 1974, price earnings ratios are still much lower than on Wall Street and most bourses on the Continent.

Share quotations in London do not reflect the underlying assets of the companies -- in many cases prices in the market are considerably below the net asset values of the companies they represent. Given this underlying situation, it is not surprising that many foreign companies, mainly American, are buying up British industry at an unprecedented rate -- a development that has not yet caught the attention of the government or trades unions, but could soon become a political issue if the present rate continues.

The U.S. engineering giant, Carborundum, which has been active in Britain for nearly 50 years, thinks "it's time to invest in the U.K." and earlier this year offered £16.6 million in an agreed bid for one of Britain's most successful companies, Weyburn Engineering. Weyburn is the world's biggest independent manufacturer of diesel camshafts and is a prize catch for Carborundum, which is keen to participate in the new growth in diesels in the U.S.

Moore Corporation of Canada is bidding for the minority interest it does not already

hold in the office equipment company, Lamson Industries. It is offering 85p a share for 48 per cent of the equity at a cost of 43 million Canadian dollars it bought 52 per cent at 100p a share in 1973 and in the meantime the pound has fallen by a quarter against the Canadian dollar.

Due to the stringent exchange control regulations in Britain, most foreign bids are in cash, rather than in shares. The requirement that investments held in overseas companies held in the U.K. must be through the investment currency premium (currently around 40 per cent) would eliminate much of the benefit of "buying British" on the cheap. This was one of the factors behind Schlumberger's 155p cash bid for the outstanding 39.2 per cent in Sangamo Weston.

Of course, not every foreign bid gets passed by the authorities in London. One of the most obvious ways to block a bid is through the Monopolies Commission which generally holds that a monopoly exists if one company has more than 25 per cent of its market. Unlike in the U.S. however, the U.K. authorities only take action if they think the position is against the national interest.

Almost all bids, foreign or domestic, are looked at by the government to see if a monopoly position might be created. But in most cases, the bid is allowed to go through.

However, one instance where the government has stepped in is the contested bid by Freuhauf Corporation of the U.S. for two-thirds of the equity it does not already own in its British associate, Crane Freuhauf, which has 47 per cent of the U.K. trailer market. Freuhauf says it is not satisfied with Crane's recent trading performance and still intends to get full control (provided it is allowed to do so by the Monopolies Commission which is now investigating whether a monopoly situation would be

against the national interest).

In some cases a foreign bid can be frustrated by employee opposition. This was most the case in the Imperial Chemical Industries (I.C.I.) bid for the U.S. for Richards Sheffield, one of the oldest in the established cutlery industry in the Midlands. U.K. cutlery industry has been severely hit in the past years by large scale import of cheap goods from the East, and this experience has led to a new deal of xenophobia.

After the bid was announced, the I.C.I. banner was floated from factory windows and one local union challenged the American to "beat us on world market stock markets".

Of course, the feelings are not all one-way -- some employees supported the bid because they thought the Americans would be able to resuscitate the industry at the "craftsmanship" at the fact. In other cases, a foreign bid can help a company out of trouble. Some people here thought that this was one of reasons for the bid by Dutch company, Oca van Grinten, for the U.K. gr Oazil.

This £24 million bid has been vented Oazil from a substantial retrenchment comes after profits in slumped from £5.1 million (£3.1 million suggesting a net profit of only £200,000 the second half). Losses £1 million in Canada and restructuring in Australia are partly to blame for Oca's recent downturn. But there is no doubt that this former marmalade company has missed its return on capital has fallen from 30 per cent to a little more than 10 per cent in just three years.

Other recent foreign takeovers include Wormald International's agreed bid for other and Platt wool £28 million; Generale Occidentale bid for 49 per cent of Camham; and Genting Highways Hotel of Malaysia's bid for den Hope Plantations.

There is no reason why foreign invasion should continue, especially since seas confidence in the post has recovered following IMF loans and international guarantees for sterling.

U.S. idea for wheat "cartel" draws mixed reaction

CHICAGO, Illinois, (CSM). — A wheat "cartel" proposed for the United States, Canada and possibly other wheat-producing nations is drawing a mixed reaction from U.S. farm groups, commodity experts, and farm-belt economists.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland's proposal is intended to shore up world wheat prices now sagging beneath huge stockpiles of grain.

Mr. Bergland began talks with Canadian Transportation Minister Otto Lang about a wheat price-fixing agreement earlier last month.

The agriculture secretary is hopeful that his proposal will not only reduce price swings for farmers, but also prevent dumping of wheat into government bins. The U.S. is expected by the middle of the summer to have a 1.1 billion bushel wheat stockpile -- Canada a 550 million bushel stockpile.

"Growers themselves are split over the cartel issue," says Jerry Peterson, Kansas Farm Bureau spokesman. "Young growers who bought land three years ago, when wheat sold for over \$5.80 a bushel are having a hard time paying their loans with wheat selling for \$2.35 in our state now," Mr. Peterson says. "But farmers who are well financed are not asking for the same price support help from the government."

Mr. Bergland in the next few weeks must set a new wheat price-support loan rate, now at \$2.25 a bushel. The new winter wheat harvest will begin in Texas in late May; the

combines will reach Kansas in June and continue north toward Canada throughout the summer.

If Secretary Bergland sets the loan level too high, farmers will be tempted to turn over their wheat to the government to cancel their loans. This would put the government back in the grain storage business -- at the taxpayer's and consumer's expense, something neither Mr. Bergland nor his critics want.

The National Association of Wheat Growers is asking for a \$3.10 a bushel price-support loan rate.

At this stage, no specific U.S.-Canada wheat agreement has been developed, says Howard Hirt, special consultant to Mr. Bergland on the issue. "No staff or position papers have been prepared," he says. "The proposal is more a concept, a principle, at the present time."

However, Mr. Bergland has spoken determinedly about his intention to reduce wheat sales price swings. "I don't intend to back down," he replied when questioned about the apparent similarity between the current oil and coffee cartels and a wheat cartel.

Responses to the Bergland proposal raise a number of issues among potential critics: "Consumers will have to pay higher prices for wheat products, foot the tax bill to store grain, and pay the cost of interest," says Donald Kemp, economist for Harris Trust and Savings bank in Chicago, should a pact price set above market levels keep U.S. grain from selling.

"The Canadian government as a whole would be against

it," he adds. "Their balance of trade is off now. Why would they be anxious to endanger their wheat export market?"

"We have had commodity agreements before, like the wheat agreement in 1967," says Dale Butts, grain expert for the Illinois Farm Bureau. "The U.S. honoured the agreements, but partners undercut the price by barter arrangements and other devices. The good guys end up with grain in their bins."

"I can sympathise with the American farmer," says John H. Frazier Jr., vice-chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade. "He was told there would be tremendous world demand for grain. He geared up for it -- bought \$50,000 combines. No wonder he feels put upon with today's prices."

"But if the market price is made artificially high, it will encourage more overproduction in the U.S. and bring other co-

untries into the competition."

Great Plains Wheat, Inc., a consortium that promotes U.S. grain sales abroad, prefers to see current market problems worked out before the International Wheat Council, established in 1971 under the International Wheat Agreement.

"The council does not sell wheat prices," observes Great Plains Wheat President Michael L. Hall. The agreement is due to expire June 30, 1978, and renewal talks would provide "an adequate forum" for discussing international market needs, Mr. Hall suggests.

Other critics of the Bergland proposal say that plowing under less-promising winter wheat fields, or grazing them down with cattle, or simply waiting to see whether the winter drought in the plains will curb this year's prices by cutting production would be preferable to a price-fixing scheme.

China's increased oil income steps up its move toward industrialisation

Peking wants to move China into the front ranks of the industrialised nations. The one short cut to speedy growth is to buy sophisticated foreign equipment with their higher earnings from oil and recent successes in agriculture, the Chinese may be planning some very big orders.

LONDON, (F.T.) — "Peking's goal to profit from the OPEC oil price rise, you'll see," said one China-watcher last December. Sure enough, it has. The Chinese have been able to raise their oil prices to Japan by nearly 7 per cent, and if all the contracts are fulfilled they should make over \$580 million this year from crude sales to Japan alone. This will be the most yet.

Although the price rise and the recent OECD predictions of an energy shortage by the mid-1980s have made China's prospects for expanded trade a good deal brighter than they looked a few months ago, China's big problem in boosting trade is to find the commodities other countries actually need to import. If it can't sell more, neither can it buy since Peking firmly believes in limiting its debts to the minimum. After the initial euphoria over China's oil potential in

1974, its exports have been "sledding uphill", as one Shell executive succinctly put it. The world recession meant lessened demand and China's waxy crude gave problems in processing. So its total oil exports since then have not exceeded 10 million tons a year, even counting in sales to North Korea and Vietnam. With inflation in the west and the consequent rise in prices for the industrial equipment the Chinese wanted to buy, they have had to curtail their purchases drastically. But with the new prices, hearts must be lighter in Peking already. Although they are selling about the same amount of crude to Japan this year as last, they are due to make another \$50 million out of it. The long-term prospects look better than they did, even though they will want to use more of their own crude as they industrialise more themselves.

Combined with new Chairman Hua Kuo-feng's evident enthusiasm for speeding up the economy and boosting trade, this development should make healthy difference to Chinese imports by the end of the year.

So far there is still a lull in trade. Peking is obviously taking stock after the political upheavals of the past year and the consequent slowdown in production. The string of conferences which are going on in China suggest that the planners are drawing up a blueprint for the rest of the current five year plan period. When that is done, buying should resume. It may even escalate to the multimillion dollar type of contract that Peking went for in the early seventies.

The fact is that Chinese development is woefully behind for a nation with economic ambitions. The current slogan is "put China in the front ranks of the industrialised nations by the end of the century." "Not a hope," commented a senior British trade unionist who recently toured the country.

The one short cut that Peking can take to speedy growth is to buy sophisticated foreign equipment. Bottlenecks like the shortage of high-grade iron ore can be removed by setting up modern ore-pelleting plants. Western mining machinery can revolutionise production of coal. Foreign electronics can transform industrial processes and, still more significantly, defence.

So far the new leadership has not outlined its industrial priorities. But it is obvious from Chairman Hua's appearance in army uniform, if nothing else -- that the military is an extremely important element in the balance of forces in the hierarchy. For years the Chinese army has been starved of equipment as agriculture and the accompanying Maoist concept of "people's war" against an invader took precedence. It seems more than likely now that heavy industry and technological expertise will come back into the limelight.

What will this mean in terms of imports? First, the Chinese seem likely to step up investment in their oil industry. That may very well mean more foreign equipment and technology for the promising offshore oil locations. The motor industry is likely to benefit with the import of a complete vehicle production line, while the vital but overburdened rail network may get the sophisticated signalling and marshalling gear it needs to operate efficiently.

But Peking's imports can't rise quickly. It is still paying for the steel and petrochemical plant bought in the last buying spree. However its agricultural sector is showing a promising growth, with a 4 per cent rise in production over each of the last few years. This is now double the rate of China's probable population increase, so there is a reasonable surplus for reinvestment.

More important is its new self-sufficiency in grain. Food imports have been costing Peking hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Since these can now be virtually phased out, the hard currency is available for buying technology instead. Even with a new policy in Peking this year, the 1977 total for trade will probably not far exceed the approximately \$14 billion of the last three years. But there should be a significant re-orientation within the total, and if Chairman Hua maintains the present momentum, the years to come will see rapid growth.

Sudan plans large-scale irrigation plan for agricultural development

KHARTOUM, Sudan, (CSM). — Sudan, whose President Nimeiri has hosted a mini-summit with Egypt's President Sadat and Syria's President Assad, is unique among Arab League members. It is not only the potential breadbasket of the Arab world, but also a bridge between that world and the black African states south of the Sahara.

Sudan's role in the search for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been less conspicuous than that of other Arab states. But it has one sometimes-overlooked qualification to act as a reconciler: The ending of 17 years of bitter civil war in its own country between Arab and Arabised northerners and a southern minority which was black and either animist or Christian.

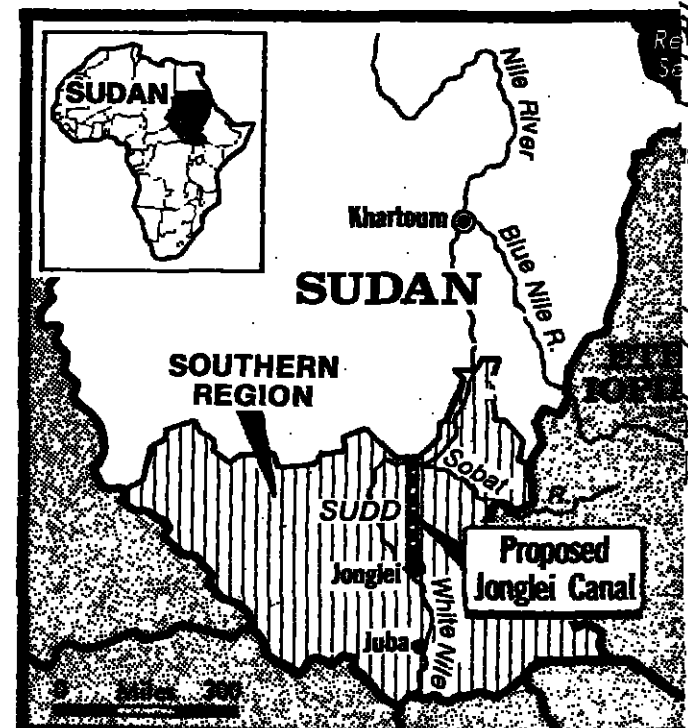
The Khartoum summit coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Addis Ababa agreement Feb. 28 which began the process of reconciliation. Sudanese are appropriately modest about the results so far achieved: "Five years is not long enough to say whether we have succeeded," says Information Minister Bona Malwal Madut Ring.

But the former leader of the Anya Nya guerrilla rebels, Maj. Gen. Joseph Lagu, now commands Sudanese forces in the three provinces constituting the Southern Region, heading an integrated force of 6,000 northerners and 6,000 former guerrillas.

The Southern Region has its own regional assembly and its own executive commission headed by Abel Alier, who is also vice-president of Sudan. Mr. Bona Malwal, information minister in the central government, is himself from the south who studied at St. John's University in New York.

And as Mr. Bona Malwal says, if Sudan's experiment succeeds, there is hope for Arab-African unity throughout Africa. If it fails, "It seems hard to see how it could succeed in the whole continent."

Sudan's other great potential is in agriculture. Sudan's



area is the largest in Africa, almost one-third of the United States minus Alaska. Its population of 17 million, though growing at 2.8 per cent per year, is far from a saturation point. Only 1.5 per cent of the land is cultivated, although 37 per cent of it is arable.

There are large rain-fed areas which require little or no irrigation where wheat, sorghum, peanuts, sugarcane and other crops can be grown.

Sudan currently irrigates 3.8 million feddans (one feddan is 1,038 acres) from Nile waters, and the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development in Kuwait has drafted a plan to increase irrigated land to 7.1 million feddans by 1983.

Since Egypt's not altogether happy experiences with the high Aswan Dam, natural scientists express increased concern about the environmental and ecological hazards of large-scale irrigation in tropical climates. But the problems do not appear insoluble.

Among ambitious plans recently under scrutiny is a proposal to cut a 267 km. canal skirting the Sudd marshes region where the White Nile makes a huge 90 degree bend.

The canal would start at Jonglei and end on the So River near its confluence with the Nile. This would add million cubic metres of water a day to the Nile flow, which now goes into the Sudd marshes. In answer to environmentalists who fear the effect of drying of the swamp on the wildlife, on the primitive tribes who inhabit the region, and on their livestock, Jonglei Canal Commission Chairman Abdullahi Muhammad Ibrahim says that the canal will be only a quarter of the Nile flow at Jonglei and would only reduce the swamp by 10 per cent. Contracts for the digging of the canal already have been signed, and once it is dug, larger proposals for developing the land in the region may be considered.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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3oth vulnerable. South
feals.

NORTH
♠ K 7
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K J 9
♣ A 6 5 2

EAST
♠ J 8 5 4
♥ Q 7 5
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K J 10

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 9 3 2
♥ 9
♦ Q 10 6
♣ Q 9 8

The bidding:
South West North East
♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
♥ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Seven of ♣.

Trump Coup Tommy had seen busy "modernizing" his bridge game by adopting conventions such as the weak two-bid. This did nothing to ease the fears of his partners, who simply joked on each new gadget employed by Tommy as another way he could go wrong and cost them points. As our readers are well aware, Tommy can best be described as "accident-prone." If there was a way to go wrong in the bidding or play, Tommy invariably found it. But give him a bad rump break and Tommy became a player transformed. Should there ever be a world championship determined solely on overcoming evil rump splits, we would bet that Tommy would win by the proverbial mile.

For once, one of Tommy's new gadgets—the weak two-bid—steered his side to a good contract in quick time.

West led his top club. East won the king and returned the suit. Tommy made his first good play when he elected to win the queen in hand. A trump to the king and another to the ace revealed the trump break and

brought the shadow of a smile to Tommy's lips. This was his meat! Tommy led a heart. West won the ace and returned a club to the ace. Tommy ruff-

ed a heart and led a diamond, inserting the nine when West played low. A heart ruff reduced Tommy's trump length to that of East's, and another diamond was led. The defenders were now helpless.

If West ducked the diamond, dummy would win and declarer could score both his trumps by ruffing the king of hearts. So West did the best he could by rising with the ace and lead-

ing another heart, but that was not good enough. Since it was fruitless to ruff, East discarded his last diamond on dummy's king of hearts.

but Tommy also sluffed a diamond. Both East and declarer were down to nothing but trumps with the lead in dummy. Since Tommy had Q-10 of trumps over East's J-8, there was no way he could be prevented from scoring both his trumps for his contract.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



Come on ... Try and keep a straight face ... Life's not that funny!

GRAFFITI
1977 Graffiti Syndicate Inc.

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IS THIS 6771-2-3-4?
I'D LIKE TO RESERVE
A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

THE ROOF
FELL IN
ON
DELILAH'S
LOVE
LIFE

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

YOUNG DR. KILDARE: HOUSE CALL

A doctor is asked at gunpoint to treat a drug addict but he succeeds in transferring patient to hospital.

THE QUEST: SEVENTY TWO HOURS

A group of out of town cowboys kill sheriff's wife and create tense situation in town.

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An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?

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OUTLET STEAKHOUSE
Firas Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte.
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First Chinese restaurant in Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahlyah School or CMS. Tel. 38868. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight.
Also take home service - order by phone.

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First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25392.
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FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not a good time for starting a new project. You would be wise to carefully study your true motives. Make long-range plans for the future. Strive for more harmony in your life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Remove any obstacles in the path of progress. Show more affection for the one you love and get excellent response.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be sure to use diplomacy at any social functions you attend today. Don't neglect to pay important bills on time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Being more precise in your career work sees you becoming more successful in the future. Find a better method for handling credit.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Not a good day to start on any new projects, but fine for carrying through with present ones. Use care in motion.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Come to a better understanding with mate and have more harmony in the future. Avoid on who is too quarrelsome.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your agreements with associates and make sure to keep your promise. Take time to engage in favorite hobby.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have many duties to perform, so persevere and forget about going off on some silly tangent. Try to cooperate more with associates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to please associates by being more cheerful. Show your mate that you are truly devoted. Avoid one who is troublesome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find out what your mate expects of you and then take steps to please. Don't argue with friends or you will regret it later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make sure you keep any promises you have made to allies. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets. Express happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study monetary matters that are important to you in the days ahead. Try to be more kindly to family members.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Good day to make right arrangements for the future so that you can be more successful. Attend the social with congenials.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Inscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOYBO
[] [] [] [] [] []

NESOO
[] [] [] [] [] []

STIPEC
[] [] [] [] [] []

ENGRYT
[] [] [] [] [] []

Answer here: [] [] [] [] [] []

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAGE PAGAN CHROME FAIRLY
Answer: "If you are I'm behind you!" - "AHEAD"

ROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Algonquian
- Restless
- Twining shoot
- French girl friend
- Tomahawk
- Circumstance
- Thong
- Affirm
- Italy's monetary unit
- Pea or nut
- Maturing dummy
- Public notices
- Against
- Knight
- Alkaline solution
- Cupel
- Kitty

DOWN

- Refreshment
- Retaining moisture
- Down
- Small bribe
- Forever. Maori
- Kettle
- Sanction
- Broth
- Shoot
- Custard
- Interlock
- Of an age
- Informality
- Cleave
- Including
- Be situated
- Three Italian
- Flattery
- Predicament
- Donated
- Variety of beryl
- Containing
- Thus far
- Criminal charge
- Turn inside out
- Shoo
- Style
- Exclamation of disgust
- Dismounted
- Exchange premium
- Horned viper
- Color
- Unit

Time 30 min. AP Newsfeatures 3-17-43

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

ENGLAND
Earl

"You look ill — no black circles around your eyes."

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

"Forget about a silly present — go over to Schultz's Butcher Shop and get him a standing rib roast."

PEANUTS

Now that your master has run away, I'm supposed to feed you.

SOUNDS OMINOUS, DOESN'T IT?

THE FLINTSTONES

HIC! I'M ON MY WAY TO KILARNEY TO... HIC! KISS TH' BLARNEY STONE! HIC!

HIC! MICHAEL, ME BOY, LET'S HAVE ONE MORE IN HONOR OF ST. PADDY'S DAY. HIC!

NO MORE FOR ME... HIC! I HAVE TO DRIVE!

MUTT AND JEFF

MUTT HAVE YOU GONE OUT OF YOUR MIND?

BUT I LOVE IT! I BUILT IT SO WE WON'T HAVE TROUBLE WITH ANY SALESMEN OR PROWLERS!

OH, YEAH? OF ALL...

Pakistani opposition leader resigns party post following alleged sell-out to Bhutto

LAHORE, March 16 (R). — The secretary general of Pakistan's opposition coalition has resigned shortly before his party's central council was due to consider his expulsion for holding what it says were secret talks with Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Reliable sources said the nine-party Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), had information that Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Bajwa had an unauthorised weekend meeting with Mr. Bhutto to discuss a possible post-election compromise.

The PNA was heavily defeated by Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in National Assembly elections on March 7 and claimed afterwards they had been rigged by Mr. Bhutto's government.

The sources said Mr. Bhutto was believed to have offered Mr. Bajwa fresh provincial elections if the PNA agreed to boycott the National Assembly in which it won 37 out of the 200 seats.

Mr. Bajwa yesterday issued a statement denying the alleged meeting with Mr. Bhutto and announcing his resignation, shortly before his party's central committee was due to meet.

Rabin wants wife's case treated "like any other"

TEL AVIV, March 16 (AFP). — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz to treat the case of his wife, found to have a bank account abroad, like any other, according to the newspaper Yedioth Aharanot.

It said Mr. Rabin told Mr. Rabinowitz that the case should be treated "exactly as that of any other citizen of the country alleged to have contravened the laws on the holding of currency abroad."

Mrs. Leah Rabin said on television yesterday that she had now closed the account, in a Washington bank, and admitted she had made a mistake through "ignorance of the law."

The account reportedly contained \$2,000 and Mrs. Rabin said it dated from the time when her husband was Israeli ambassador in Washington.

The maximum penalty for such an offence, provided the sum does not exceed \$5,000, is a fine equivalent to half its value.

The Finance Ministry's committee on fines will meet shortly to decide how much to fine Mrs. Rabin.

The rightwing opposition Likud group has decided not to use the matter as ammunition in the political war, but leaving members of parliament have asked for the introduction of a law that would force ministers to declare their assets before taking office.

A Tel Aviv lawyer is bringing a civil action against the prime minister's wife for having "contravened the laws of the country."

U.S. mission arrives in Vietnam

HONG KONG, March 16 (R). — An official American mission arrived in Hanoi today for discussions on 2,500 missing American servicemen in the hope of paving the way towards normal relations between the United States and Vietnam.

The Vietnam News Agency, in a report monitored here, said the five-man commission was met at Hanoi's Gai Lam Airport by the vice minister for foreign affairs and other officials.

It added that the commission, the first official U.S. delegation to come to Vietnam since the end of the war, had come "with the agreement of the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam following a formal proposal by the U.S. government."

The commission is led by the head of the United Auto-workers' Union Mr. Leonard Woodcock who is accompanied by State Department officials and American reporters. The delegation stayed over for the night at Clark Base, Philippines, some 80 kms. north of Manila.

Mr. Woodcock told reporters on his arrival there last night: "We hope to find a key to the solution of our missing in action and to build a bridgehead towards normalisation."

Might Carter's morality push South Africa into coming to terms with Soviet Union?

By Pierre Haski

JOHANNESBURG, March 16 (AFP). — One week before Soviet head of state Nikolai Podgorniy's African tour, South Africa is anxiously awaiting next Friday's speech by U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the region's problems, it was reported here yesterday.

Mr. Podgorniy is scheduled to visit Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique on the first black African tour by a Soviet leader.

South African leaders are growing more irritated over the aggressive remarks made about them by representatives of the Carter administration, especially Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young.

South Africa reportedly issued several direct and indirect warnings to Washington, urging "the leader of the free world" not to go too far in the implementation of its moral principles.

The situation was pointed out on Monday when the South African television gave unusual publicity to the presence of a Soviet warship in the Port of Cape Town.

The research ship Estonia, back from a scientific mission in the Antarctic, made a forced call at Cape Town after a female member of the crew fell ill.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

BEIRUT, March 16 (R). — Lebanon's 19-month civil war broke between five and eight billion Lebanese pounds (about \$1.6 billion) in material damage, Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss has declared. In a lecture at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Dr. Al Hoss said indirect losses from the war up to 1980 would amount to an estimated 20 to 50 billion Lebanese pounds (\$4 to \$10 billion).

PARIS, March 16 (R). — Somalia has offered its mediation to prevent the Paris conference on the future of the French Red Sea territory of Afars and Issas from ending in failure. Participants postponed a plenary meeting scheduled for yesterday because of still unresolved differences over the organisation of general elections due to coincide with a referendum on the independence of the strategic enclave in the Horn of Africa.

MUSCAT, March 16 (R). — Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri, on the second day of his state visit to Oman, today had talks with Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Informal sources said discussions covered bilateral relations and Arab and international questions.

MOSCOW, March 16 (R). — Turkish Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil flew from Moscow to Leningrad today for two days of sightseeing in Russia's second-largest city. Mr. Caglayangil yesterday concluded political discussions here with his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Andrei Gromyko. He is expected to return to Ankara direct from Leningrad on Friday morning, Turkish sources said.

Italian hijacker captured in Zurich

ZURICH, March 16 (AFP). — Swiss police today overpowered the lone hijacker of a Spanish Boeing 727 and freed 90 passengers and seven crew members he had been holding since Monday.

Police said one of two officers who disarmed the Italian hijacker, Mr. Luciano Porcari, was wounded in the thigh but all the hostages were unharmed.

A passenger who reportedly had a heart attack and rushed off the plane on a stretcher was suffering only from shock, the police said.

Also on board the Iberian Airways plane was Mr. Porcari's three-year-old daughter Margherita.

She was handed over by her Ivorian mother on Monday night.

gth in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, the plane's second stop after it was hijacked between Barcelona and Palma, Majorca, at midday. The hostages were freed 90 minutes after the plane returned here early this morning from Warsaw and the hijacker demanded a fresh crew. Warsaw was its last port of call on an odyssey of more than 14,000 kms. across two continents.

These included Turin, Italy, where Mr. Porcari's ex-wife Isabella Zavotti refused to hand

over their daughter Consuelo aged five. At one point, Mr. Porcari threatened to blow up the plane unless the child joined him. Swiss police said the three-year-old girl would be returned to Abidjan if her mother wanted her.

They also described Mr. Porcari as "quite intelligent and very cunning," but would not disclose much about how he disarmed him and freed the hostages.

SOMALIA MAY JOIN UNIFIED COMMAND

CAIRO, March 16 (AFP). — Somalia could be considering joining Egypt, Sudan and Syria in the Joint Political Command they formed early this month, Al-Ahram said today quoting reports from Mogadishu. This possibility would be discussed at the highest level in the next few days, the Cairo daily wrote.

Belgium sends arms to Zaire

BRUSSELS, March 16 (R). — Belgium has sent Zaire two plane loads of small arms in the past 24 hours following a request for help from President Mobutu Sese Seko, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

He said the arms were part of an order for military equipment placed by Belgium's former colony some time ago.

The spokesman said the shipment was being speeded up upon the request of the president.

quiet in the region around the city, the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Belgium was consulting with the United States in France, which had also been approached for help by President Mobutu. The U.S. has already announced it is sending \$1 million worth of supplies.

The spokesman said the Belgian government had no plan to evacuate its nationals from Shaba.

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ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Fall in petrodollar surplus reported

LONDON, March 16 (AFP). — Monetary surpluses held by the oil exporting countries last year fell by some \$2,500 million despite a further oil revenue rise of around \$16,000 million, the Bank of England estimated today in its latest quarterly bulletin.

The reduction was due to increased imports. Even so, the combined surplus was still \$33,200 million, the bank said.

The oil countries continued investing heavily in the United States, which took \$11,500 million or 35 per cent of total

placements abroad, against a previous \$10,000 million.

As in 1975, these U.S. investments went mainly into company shares and real estate, the figure for these sectors being \$6,700 million.

The oil countries also put more into Britain: \$4,500 million against a previous \$4,300 million, solely in the form of foreign currency deposits with banks.

But they cut back on sterling investment by a net \$1,900 million, this being seen as contributing to the pound sterling's recent problems.

The Bank of England report said the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) also increased their bank deposits in countries other than the U.S. and Britain, although they trimmed their lending to developing nations.

They raised the amounts promised to these nations but actual transfers had yet to reflect this increase.

Total 1976 oil revenue came to \$113,200 million against a previous \$96,800 million. Receipts speeded up in the final quarter to \$30,600 million against

\$27,700 million in both previous two quarters and \$25 million in the first quarter. This acceleration was the result of buyers anticipating the Jan. 1 price rises, but rising demand also had its effect.

However, the last quarter surplus was only \$7,300 million which was the lowest since the third quarter of 1975.

Looking ahead into this year, the Bank of England forecast a new rise in the overall surplus held by oil countries, as a consequence of the new prices and the increased oil output by some OPEC members.

OPEC expresses continued support for U.N. commodities' stockpiling fund

GENEVA, March 16 (R). — The proposed United Nations Commodity Fund was told of continued OPEC support yesterday, but a spokesman for developing nations expressed alarm that statements by developed countries at a conference here remain "general and non-committal."

The four-week conference, attended by 104 nations, is in its second week of consideration of a projected \$6 billion fund to regulate and stabilise commodity markets and prices by means of buffer stockpiles of commodities.

Dr. Ibrahim Shihada, Director-General of the Special Development Fund of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), advocated modest initial objectives for the project with adequate consideration of alternative approaches.

He said OPEC had passed the stage of merely expressing support in principle for the common fund, which has the aim of giving Third World nations better and more assured returns on their exports to the industrialised world.

In an apparent reference to

reservations and misgivings of some leading industrialised states, Dr. Shihada said:

"In view of the lack of certainty of the attitude of some other key countries on what -- if it is to succeed fully -- must be a universal and global endeavour, adequate opportunity should now be allowed for reaching agreement on the basic elements of a common fund."

A spokesman for the "Group of 77" developing countries, which includes more than 100 states and strongly backs the proposed fund, expressed alarm at statements on behalf of the developed nations.

Mr. Ali Alatas of Indonesia said he found "most disconcerting" remarks last week by British delegate Gordon Barras -- speaking on behalf of the Western industrialised countries -- which "could mean all things to all people."

He also said he was disappointed at the "equivocal tone and approach" of a statement by the European Common Market in assessing the possible results of the conference.

He said the developing countries

also hoped for a more positive stand from Japan, Australia and Canada, but he was encouraged by what he called the positive approach of the United States.

The OPEC spokesman gave no precise indication of what the organisation's contribution to the fund might be, but noted OPEC countries together accounted for less than 3.5 per cent of the 18 commodities covered in the fund plan put forward by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He said OPEC members should not be treated as a distinct category of states, but participate in the fund's equity capital in the same manner as other developing countries.

"Special arrangements could still be made to ease the burden of the poorest countries. Loans to the fund may be considered in future as possible sound investment of liquid assets under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon in due course with the management of the fund itself," he said.

Abu Dhabi forms gas company

ABU DHABI, March 16 (R). — The Abu Dhabi government has formed a company with British, French and Japanese interests to be called the Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (AGL), the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will have a 51 per cent stake.

The new company will operate and market the products

of a huge liquefaction plant built at a cost of \$420 million by Abu Dhabi Marine Areas (ADMA), the company which operates Abu Dhabi's offshore oilfields.

The other partners in AGL are British Petroleum (16.33 per cent), Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (18.16 per cent), Mitsui and Company (22.05 per cent) and Bridgestone Liquefied Gas Company, a Mitsui subsidiary, (2.45 per cent).

The plant, situated on Das Island, 120 kms. off the Abu Dhabi coast, is now complete and has started experimental production.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

BRUSSELS, March 16 (AFP). — The European Economic Community (EEC), will withdraw from the 14-member North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission at the end of this year, community sources disclosed today. They said the EEC Commission would tell the other members of its decision tomorrow at its current meeting in Canada. The move was expected after the EEC agreed to extend its joint fishing limit to 200 nautical miles.

BRUSSELS, March 16 (AFP). — Agriculture ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) last night failed to make any progress on 1977-78 prices but they still hope to settle the question by March 27. The delegations were considering an EEC Commission proposal that prices be raised an average 3 per cent -- the amount would be higher for weak currency countries and lower for strong currency countries.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 16 (AFP). — Sherwin-Williams, the only U.S. saccharin producer, will reopen its Cincinnati, Ohio, plant because of a flood of orders, a company spokesman announced. In conformity with a government request, the company closed the plant last week after an official agency covering food and pharmaceuticals banned saccharin. The ban comes into effect in July, and meanwhile a large number of people were apparently stocking up with saccharin, the spokesman said.

DETROIT, Michigan, March 16 (AFP). — The world turned out some 39,300,000 cars, trucks and buses last year, statistics compiled by Ward's Automotive Reports showed yesterday. This was 13.5 per cent more vehicles than the year before (34,000,000 units). Cars alone totalled 29,600,000. Ward's Reports said that almost all countries recorded an increase in automobile production except the Soviet Union, Mexico (9 per cent less), South Africa (30 per cent less) and Argentina (19 per cent less). The United States (output 28 per cent up) easily headed the list of manufacturing countries, in front of Japan (up 13 per cent), West Germany (up 21 per cent), France (up 19 per cent) and the Soviet Union (down 6 per cent).

WALL STREET REPORT

Priced kept climbing Wednesday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average gained about 3 points in fairly active trading.

The average has now risen more than 20 points in three straight sessions of gain since the beginning of the week.

Profit-taking, however, put some pressure on the market today thus limiting the advance. Investors are still encouraged by favourable statistics published about the American economy: A one per cent rise in the industrial production index in February and a sharp rise in housing starts last month.

Advances led declines at the bell by a moderate margin: 796 to 617.

Railway, television and chemical issues were among the stronger groups. Sony was the most active issue once again and rose 1/4 to 10-1/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 968.00, a gain of 2.99 points. Transp at 228.38, a gain of 1.02; utilities at 106.82, a gain of 0.38. 22,140,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,360,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Wednesday closed mixed. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 0.8 at 427.1.

News that British Leyland toolroom strikers had agreed to return to work on certain conditions caused an initial sharp rally among government bonds but prices then eased on further consideration of the conditions, dealers said. Net falls ranged to one-half point.

Equity leaders closed narrowly mixed, while gold shares were higher with the bullion price although closing levels were below the day's highs.

Shipbuilding issues firmed on expectations of compensation. The Shipbuilding and Aircraft Industry Nationalisation Bill is expected to receive the royal assent Thursday.

B.P. was 4p higher ahead of results due Thursday but Shell eased 4p. Thomas Tilling finished about 2p up after results.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$147.50/oz.

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